## PREPARE FOR BATTLE

COLOSSIANS 1:1, 2

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Heresies are continually knocking at the church's door and your personal relationship with Jesus is under attack. The heretical attacks center around giving up your Christian liberty for spiritual bondage. F.F. Bruce, <u>The Epistle to the Colossians</u>, p. 164. Colossians will teach you how to win your battles!

FAITHFUL BROTHERS WILL LEAD. Those who have a solid foundation of faith in Jesus Christ and Christ alone are able to withstand the attempts to dismantle the sufficiency of Christ. (Colossians 1:2, I Corinthians 3:10-15, fn 3:11, II Timothy 2:2, 15, fn 2:2, Colossians 2:6-10, fn 2:10) How could you build a solid foundation?

FAITHFUL EPAPHRAS WILL OBSERVE from the sidelines. At some point your ministry must stand apart from your leadership. Some day Christ's ministry to others by you will end. (Colossians 1:2,7, fn 1:7, Colossians 4:12, fn 4:12, II Peter 1:12-15, fn 1:12-15, II Timothy 4:5-8, fn 4:5-8, II Timothy 4:22, fn 4:22) If you could observe your ministry from the sidelines, what would be your expectations?

FAITHFUL BROTHERS' WEAPON IS GRACE. Grace, God's kindness, favor, and power, is not earned nor is it deserved. It is received by faith and from beginning (Colossians 1:2) to end (Colossians 4:18) we stand in Christ and His power, or we don't stand at all. (Colossians 1:6, I Corinthians 1:3-9, fn 1:4-6, Romans 5:1, 2, fn 5:2, Romans 1:5, fn 1:5, 6, II Timothy 2:1, fn 2:1) How could grace help you to win your battles over heresies?

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshipping together.

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